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LETTER DATED 10 JANUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to notify you of continued violations of the ceasefire resolution and the Tehran agreement concerning the area of separation between Iraq and Iran that were committed by the Iranian side between 22 June and 7 December 1998, as shown in the list annexed hereto.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Iranian violations of the ceasefire and the 1991 Tehran agreement, 22 June-7 December 1998

1. 22 June 1998

Civilian vehicles belonging to the Ali al-Gharbi district administration were in a wadi near the Iranian post opposite the Iraqi border observation post in the Ali al-Gharbi sector. At 1200 hours, after the civilian vehicles had withdrawn, the Iranian post directed intense fire at the Iraqi post.

2. 10 August 1998

At 1630 hours a helicopter was seen inside Iranian airspace at coordinates 450510 flying parallel to the Iranian shore of the Shatt al-Arab towards the Khosrowabad area at coordinates 520401 (1:100,000 map of Saybah). It then headed further inside Iranian territory.

3. 13 September 1998

The Iranians established a new military observation post on the Iranian shore of the Shatt al-Arab opposite the Fadaghiyah area at coordinates 518420 (1:100,000 map of Saybah). The post was manned by five persons.

4. 15 September 1998

The Iranians continued constructing the new building located opposite the Saybah area behind the earth embankment inside Iranian territory at coordinates 392580 (1:100,000 map of Saybah). Construction had begun on 30 July 1998, and work had subsequently been suspended. The structure is to be 25 metres long and 14 metres wide, and it is being built of bricks.

5. 12 October 1998

At 2400 hours the Iranians seized a number of Iraqi launches and fishing boats at the entry to the Shatt al-Arab near the Abadan headland at coordinates 8210 (1:100,000 map of Mina' al-Bakr) while they were fishing there. The number of boats and launches involved has yet to be determined.

6. 13 October 1998

The Iranians are establishing three or four additional observation posts in between the main posts opposite the Fadaghiyah area at coordinates 519410 (1:100,000 map of Saybah). In each of the new posts are four persons armed with light weapons. These posts are manned daily after dark, and they are vacated at first light. The Iranian side has also operated infantry and mechanized patrols near the embankment in the same area in order to strengthen its control of that zone.

7. 14 October 1998

At 1015 hours a khaki-coloured helicopter was seen heading from north to south at an altitude of 400 metres and at a distance of about 5 kilometres from the international boundary.

8. 14 October 1998

At 1215 hours a helicopter in mottled green and khaki camouflage was seen coming from inside Iranian territory and flying at an altitude of about 300 metres towards the Iranian post opposite the Fakkah post. It landed at coordinates 5251 between 1.5 and 2 kilometres from the international boundary. Four persons in military dress alighted from it, boarded a Land-Rover vehicle and headed towards the Iranian post. They then proceeded to the metal tower and observed our units from there. At 1330 hours the helicopter headed back inside Iranian territory.

9. 17 October 1998

The launch Al-Taysir, belonging to the agent Mansur Hassun, had a mishap at the entry to the Shatt al-Arab channel before it reached the Iranian inspection point. It took on water, and the crew members were forced to jettison the entire cargo. Private tugboats were sent to save the crew and take the launch under tow, but the Iranians intervened and opened fire on them and forced them to turn back. The launch is still at the entry to the Shatt al-Arab channel.

10. 28 October 1998

At 0900 hours the Iranians were seen building a hut near the border observation post to the right of the Mansuri post at coordinates 5741, some 500 metres from the international boundary.

11. 6 November 1998

At 1500 hours four open khaki-coloured jeeps, each mounting a 106-mm gun, and two empty khaki-coloured GMC vehicles were seen parked near the Iranian post in Abadan port at coordinates 410560. There were 15 persons in military attire with them.

12. 9 November 1998

At 1400 hours the Iranians completed construction of the new building begun on 30 July 1998 and located behind the earth embankment opposite the Saybah area inside Iranian territory at coordinates 239580 (1:100,000 map of Saybah). The building is to be used as a border post, and it was manned by eight persons armed with GC rifles.

13. 10 November 1998

At 1300 hours a group of 50 men and one woman was seen visiting the western shore in the Abadan area at coordinates 380590. They remained for one hour and then withdrew further inside Iranian territory.

14. 10 November 1998

At 1500 hours the Iranians replaced the 100-man force assigned to protect the Abadan refineries with another force and withdrew a 106-mm gun, a vehicle carrying a radar apparatus and an ambulance.

15. 13 November 1998

The Iranians reinforced their position in Abadan port at coordinates 410560 so that there were eight jeeps instead of four, six of them mounting a 106-mm gun, one of them carrying a radar apparatus and one of them empty. At 1600 hours on 19 November the six jeeps with the 106-mm guns were seen withdrawing from Abadan refinery further inside Iranian territory.

16. 21 November 1998

Seven Iraqi fishermen on boat No. 5384/Basrah, nine on Al-Muhajir and six on Al-Hasan were returning from work inside our territorial waters in the area near Khawr al-Amayah port when they were intercepted by an Iranian naval patrol consisting of four armed men. The fishermen, who had not crossed the international boundary, had their documents confiscated.

17. 25 November 1998

At 0900 hours the Iranians erected a 30-metre-high communications tower opposite the Mutawwa'ah area at coordinates 302668 (1:100,000 map of Saybah), some 500 metres from the Iranian embankment.

18. 7 December 1998

Launch No. 250 was searched by the Iranian patrols and the identity documents and seamen's papers of the seven fishermen on board were taken.

19. 7 December 1998

At 1330 hours an Iranian boat was seen coming from the sea towards Abadan with 15 persons on board. Seven of them were wearing civilian clothing and eight were in military uniform and armed with GC rifles. Using a video camera, they filmed the Iraqi shore from the Shatt al-Arab between the Mu'amir area at coordinates 520305 and the Dawrah area at coordinates 482360 (1:100,000 map of Saybah).

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